

Specification

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A rake assembly 27 is pivotally attached to a forward portion of frame member 14, rake assembly 27 being suspended below member 14. Assembly 27 pivots between an engaged or ground-engaging position, shown in FIGS. 1, 2a, and 4, and a retracted or storage position, shown in FIG. 3. Assembly 27 comprises a rake support bar 28, spacer plate 29, rake blade 30, and tilt plate 31. Support bar 28 is a downward facing open channel member having a forward plate 28a, a rearward plate 28b and a top plate 28c extending between plates 28a, 28b. Plates 28a and 28b are parallel to each other and perpendicular to top plate 28c in this embodiment. The lower edges of plates 28a, 28b are free and adapted to contact the ground. As shown in the figures and in detail in FIG. 2, assembly 27 is connected to frame member 14 by a pivot arm 32 on each lateral side of member 14. The forward end of each arm 32 pivots on shaft 33, and the rear end of each arm 32 is attached to assembly 27 by shaft 35. Arms 32 freely pivot about shaft 33, but assembly 27 is selectively held at a desired angle relative to arms 32 by bolt 37, which frictionally engages a slot 39 in tilt plate 31. By loosening bolt 37, assembly 27 may be rotated relative to arms 32 within the range limit defined by slot 39.

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Referring to FIGS. 1, 2a and 2b, rake blade 30 is fastened by bolts 41 to forward plate 28a of support bar 28, and spacer plate 29 is fastened to top plate 28c of support bar 28 by bolts 43. As shown in FIG. 2b, blade 30 has a first row 45 of teeth, for raking earth 12 of infield 13 (FIG. 4), and vertically elongated holes 47, which have a width sized to receive bolts 41 for mounting blade 30 on support bar 28. Blade 30 also has a second, oppositely arranged row 49 of

teeth for allowing a user to invert and reinstall blade 30 when first row 45 is worn or damaged, second row 49 then being used to rake infield earth 12. Each of the teeth of rows 45, 49 has inclined side edges that converge to a peak, as shown in Figure 2b. Blade 30 is preferably positioned on support bar 28 so that rows 45, 49 of teeth are parallel to the lower edge of support bar 28. Also, rake assembly 27 is preferably adjusted so that the height of blade 30 is perpendicular to surface 13. The lower of rows 45, 49 of teeth extends below the lower edge of forward plate 28a of support bar 28 for breaking up and raking earth 12 as apparatus 11 is towed. To adjust the effect of blade 30 on surface 13, the height of blade 30 relative to support bar 28 can be adjusted by loosening bolts 41, allowing blade 30 to be repositioned to the desired height or, if desired, the desired angle relative to support bar 28.

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Referring again to the figures, the threaded portion of each bolt 43 extends upward, and bolts 43 are retained on rake assembly 27 by nuts 51. When necessary to break up hardened earth 12, weight plates 53 can be mounted on bolts 43, as shown in FIG. 4, to provide additional downward force on rake assembly 27. Plates 53 rest on nuts 51 and are preferably retained on bolts 43 by wing nuts 54. Plates 53 having different ~~thicknesses~~ thickness and weights may be used to select the desired additional force, and multiple plates 53 may be used.

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In FIG. 3, broom assembly 63 is shown partially rotated toward a storage position, in which broom assembly 63 is rotated about hinge 65 to a position where arm 67 is located above frame member 14 and broom 69 is positioned generally above rake assembly 27. A plate 81 extends upward from each lateral side of frame member 14, plates 81 being located forward of

frame member 15. Each plate 81 has a hole 83 sized to receive a pin (not shown, but like pin 59) for retaining broom assembly 63 in the storage position, the pin and holes 83 being located above surface 85 of arm 67. In the storage position, broom assembly 63 will be forward of wheels 23. Because hinge 65 is located forward of the rear edge of wheel assemblies 21, 23, apparatus 11 may be stored against a vertical surface, such as a wall, when broom assembly 63 is in the storage position. In this stored position, apparatus 11 is rotated so that longitudinal frame member 14 is generally vertical, and wheel assemblies 21, 23 are moved to near or against the vertical surface.

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Referring to the figures, prior to operation, a user adjusts height of hitch 19 in hitch assembly 17 to the desired or required height for the corresponding hitch portion on the tow vehicle. Rake blade 30 is fastened to support bar 28, blade 30 being positioned to provide a row 45, 49 of teeth with a selected penetration depth, rows 45, 49 typically being parallel to infield surface 13. The angle of rake assembly 27 to arms 32 is adjusted at tilt plate 31, rake assembly 27 preferably being used with the plane of the height of rake blade 30 perpendicular to surface 13. If desired, weight plates 53 (Fig. 4) may be added to rake assembly 27.